THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATl PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There are 360 centres/clinics having pre-natal diagnostic facilities registered in Chhattisgarh under the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

(b) One of the reasons attributed for lower number of girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years is the practice of determination of the sex of the foetus and aborting it if found to be female.

(c) Appropriate Authorities at State, district and sub-district level are empowered with the powers of Civil Court of search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipments and records of the violations of law including sealing of premises and commissioning of witnesses under Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994. The violations of the Act is punishable with imprisonment up to 5 year and fine up to Rs. 1.00 lakh apart from cancellation of registration and license. In the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the number of present cases in the courts is 72, 24, 18 and 'nil' respectively.

National Inspection & Monitoring Committee (NIMC) consisting of members from Ministry of Health and & Family Welfare, Department of Women & Child Development and NGO's undertook visits to the State of Punjab & Haryana in May 2005 and to Uttar Pradesh in January 2006. The violations observed were sent to the concerned States for taking necessary action.

Sale of soft drinks in hospital premises

3123. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued directive to all Government hospitals to allow the establishment of automatic vending machines for sale of sweetened soft drinks and colas;

(b) if so, the details of such directive and help for sales promotion;

(c) what is Government's interest in promoting the sale of soft drinks of MNCs to sick people; and

(d) the steps proposed to ban the sale of sugared and sweetened colas and soft drinks from all hospital premises in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Ascertaining pesticide level in soft drinks

†3124. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have urged all the State Governments to ascertain the quantity of pesticides in the Pepsi and Coca Cola drinks;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the States from which testing results have been received; and

(c) the details of these results and the steps taken by Government keeping in view of these results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) For monitoring the level of pesticides in carbonated water being sold in the country the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already issued directions to all State Governments and Central Food Laboratories to take samples of cabronated water as well as the water used in the manufacture of carbonated water for checking the quality paramaters including pesticide residues.

(b) and (c) As per information received from 14 State Governments, 213 samples have been lifted so far and have been sent for testing and analysis to the designated laboratories. As per the report received from the State of Gujarat, out of 28 samples analysed by them, none of the samples have shown presence of any of the pesticides.

Social rights of HIV/AIDS infected people

3125. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the HIV/AIDS infected people in our country are deprived of basic social rights;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.